

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Page 1, please add the following heading before the first full paragraph:**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**Page 3, please add the following heading before the second full paragraph:**

SUMMARY OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

**Page 4, please add the following heading after the seventh full paragraph:**

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**Page 5, please add the following heading before the first paragraph:**

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS OF THE  
INVENTION

**Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure.**

**Please add the following new Abstract of the Disclosure:**

The operating process for an active node of a packet-switched communication network, and in particular of an active IP router is provided. The operating process comprises receiving an active packet sent by a terminal; executing a request contained in the active packet, this request being intended to configure packet processing functions; and then executing a program contained or identified in the active packet, this program being intended to control packet processing functions. The active packet can also be sent by the router to a recipient terminal. The operating process is implemented by an active node, in particular an IP router. A data packet, which includes a request and a program or an identifier for a program is also provided, the request and the program being intended for execution by the active node.